

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor comprising a titanium oxide and a polycarboxylic acid polymer in a solvent.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 1, wherein said polycarboxylic acid polymer is at least one selected from a saturated polycarboxylic acid polymer and an unsaturated polycarboxylic acid polymer.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 1, wherein the content of said polycarboxylic acid polymer is 0.3 to 10 parts by weight in respect to 100 parts by weight of said titanium oxide.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 1, wherein an acid value of said polycarboxylic acid polymer is 100 to 400 mgKOH/g.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 1, wherein said titanium oxide has a purity of 99.0% or higher.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 1, further comprising a resin.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 6, wherein the content of said titanium oxide is 300 to 800 parts by weight in respect to 100 parts by weight of said resin.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a coating liquid for an intermediate layer of an electrophotographic photoconductor comprising a step for mixing a solvent, a titanium oxide, and at least one of a saturated polycarboxylic acid polymer and an unsaturated polycarboxylic polymer.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic photoconductor comprising an intermediate layer and a photosensitive layer on an electroconductive substrate, wherein said intermediate layer ~~contains~~ comprises a titanium oxide and a polycarboxylic acid polymer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 9, wherein said polycarboxylic acid polymer is at least one polycarboxylic acid polymer selected from the group consisting of a saturated polycarboxylic acid polymer, and an unsaturated polycarboxylic acid polymer, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (Original): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 9, wherein the content of said polycarboxylic acid polymer is 0.3 to 10 parts by weight in respect to 100 parts by weight of said titanium oxide.

Claim 12 (Original): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 9, wherein an acid value of said polycarboxylic acid polymer is 30 to 400 mg KOH/g.

Claim 13 (Original): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 9, wherein said titanium oxide has a purity of 99.0% or higher.

Claim 14 (Original): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 9, wherein said intermediate layer further comprises a resin.

Claim 15 (Original): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 14, wherein the content of said titanium oxide is 300 to 800 parts by weight in respect to 100 parts by weight of said resin.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An electrophotographic apparatus comprising: an electrophotographic photoconductor;

a charger configured to charge the electrophotographic photoconductor;

a light irradiator configured to irradiate the electrophotographic photoconductor with a light to form an electrostatic latent image on the electrophotographic photoconductor;

an image developer configured to develop the electrostatic latent image with a developer comprising a toner to form a toner image on the electrophotographic photoconductor;

a transfer configured to transfer the toner image onto a receiving material; and

a fixer configured to fix the toner image on the receiving material;

wherein said electrophotographic photoconductor comprises at least an intermediate layer and a photosensitive layer on an electroconductive substrate, and said intermediate layer contains a titanium oxide and a polycarboxylic acid polymer.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The electrophotographic apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said light irradiator has a semiconductor laser.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A process cartridge for an electrographic apparatus comprising an intermediate layer which comprises a titanium oxide and a polycarboxylic acid polymer, and a photosensitive layer on an electroconductive substrate.

Claim 19 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 9, wherein said polycarboxylic acid polymer is a saturated polycarboxylic acid polymer.

Claim 20 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 9, wherein said polycarboxylic acid polymer is an unsaturated polycarboxylic acid polymer.

Claim 21 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 19, wherein an acid value of said polycarboxylic acid polymer is 30 to 400 mg KOH/g.

Claim 22 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 20, wherein an acid value of said polycarboxylic acid polymer is 30 to 400 mg KOH/g.

Claim 23 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 19, wherein said intermediate layer further comprises a resin.

Claim 24 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 23, wherein the content of said titanium oxide is 300 to 800 parts by weight in respect to 100 parts by weight of said resin.

Claim 25 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 20, wherein said intermediate layer further comprises a resin.

Claim 26 (New): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to claim 25, wherein the content of said titanium oxide is 300 to 800 parts by weight in respect to 100 parts by weight of said resin.